Ad-hoc CAMPA *vis-a-vis* Gujarat

1429. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to :

(a) whether it is true that Government had constituted *Ad-hoc* Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management Planning Authority (CAMPA) for management of funds received for diversion of forest land for non-forest land under Forest Conservation Act, 1980;

(b) whether Government of Gujarat had transferred funds to CAMPA, if so, the quantum of funds;

(c) whether Government of Gujarat had submitted any proposal(s) to receive funds from CAMPA; if so, how much amount and when the proposal was submitted;

(d) the amount released for State of Gujarat so far out of CAMPA funds; and

(e) if not, by when such amount will be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The Government of India in the Ministry of Environment and Forests had constituted Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) *vide* the Gazette Notification of 23rd April 2004 for the purpose of management of money received towards Compensatory Afforestation, Net Present Value and any other money recoverable for diversion of forest lands for non-forest purpose. Since, CAMPA could not be operationalised for one reason or the other, the Ad-hoc CAMPA was constituted in the Month of May, 2006 under orders from the hon'ble Supreme Court of India for the following functions:—

(a) To ensure that all the money recovered on behalf of the 'CAMPA' and which are presently lying with the various officials of the State Government are transferred to the bank account(s) to be operated by this body; and

(b) get audited all the money received from the User Agencies on behalf of the CAMPA and the income earned thereon by the various State Government officials. The auditors may be appointed by the CAG. The audit may also examine whether proper financial procedure has been following investing the funds;

(b) to (e) The State Government of Gujarat had been transferring funds to *Ad-hoc* CAMPA from time to time. The quantum of such funds transferred by them till 1st March, 2008 in the order of Rs. 120,57,84,403/- (Rupees one hundred twenty crores, fifty seven lacs, eighty four thousand and four hundred three only).

The State Government in the Month of May, 2007 had submitted a proposal for utilization of CAMPA funds to the tune of Rs. 12,33,57000/- (Rupees twelve crores, thirty three lacs and fifty seven thousand only) for afforestation activities etc. Release of funds to the Sates/Union Territories including Gujarat for undertaking afforestation activities, infrastructural development, management and protection of forest and wildlife etc. could not be made due to the fact that the *Ad-hoc* CAMPA has not been authorised by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India to release the funds.